

11/03/2003 16:33 7137800044

SOUTHWEST PATENT SVS

Krchnak Enterprises

281-998-1398



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no burdens are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0851-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal

Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/932,910
Filing Date	August 20, 2001
First Named Inventor	Gregory T. Whitaker et al
Art Unit	1756
Examiner Name	James W. Pastarczyk
Attorney Docket Number	1698U020A.D1.U8

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.176(j) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Fees

- The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to

- a. ☐ Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_
- i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.138 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
- c. ☒ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Douglas W. Miller	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	36,604
Signature	<i>Douglas W. Miller</i>	Date	November 3, 2003

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Dorothy Williams	Date	November 3, 2003
Signature	<i>Dorothy Williams</i>		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-6199 and select option 2.

11/03/2003 16:33 7137800044

NOV 03 2003 4:25PM

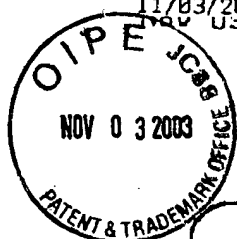
Krchnak Enterprises

SOUTHWEST PATENT SVS

PAGE 01

281-998-1398

OFFICIAL



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Approved for use through 05/30/2003, OMB 0951-0021  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/332,910
	Filing Date	AUGUST 20, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Gregory T. Whitaker et al
	Art Unit	1795
	Examiner Name	James W. Pastarozzyk
	Attorney Docket Number	1998UA20A.01.US

Total Number of Pages in This Submission 21

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

NOV 03 2003

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/Declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	PTO/SB/30 - Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	PTO-2036 - Credit Card Payment Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD Number of CD(s)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Douglas W. Miller
Signature	<i>Douglas W. Miller</i>
Date	November 3, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.	
Typed or printed name	Dorothy Williams
Signature	<i>Dorothy Williams</i>
Date	November 3, 2003

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1480, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

11/03/2003 15:33 7137800044

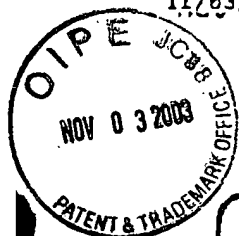
SOUTHWEST PATENT SVS

PAGE 03

Krohnak Enterprises

281-998-1398

p.3



Under the Patent Reduction Act of 1995, no person is required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0032  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

# FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2003, Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 880.00)

## Complete if Known

Application Number 09/932,910  
Filing Date August 20, 2001  
First Named Inventor Gregory T. Whitaker et al  
Examiner Name James W. Pestarczyk  
Art Unit 1755  
Attorney Docket No. 1898U020A.01.US

## METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☒ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None

☐ Deposit Account

Deposit Account Number  
Deposit Account Name

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)  
☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☐ Credit any overpayments  
☐ Charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s)  
☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above identified deposit account.

## FEE CALCULATION

### 1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1001 770	2001 085	Utility filing fee	
1002 340	2002 170	Design filing fee	
1003 530	2003 285	Plant filing fee	
1004 770	2004 385	Reissue filing fee	
1005 180	2005 60	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$ )

### 2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Total Claims:  -20 =  X  =   
Independent Claims:  -3 =  X  =   
Multiple Dependent:  X  =

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1202 18	2202 9	Claims in excess of 20	
1201 85	2201 43	Independent claims in excess of 5	
1203 280	2203 145	Multiple dependent claims, if not paid	
1204 85	2204 43	** Reissue independent claims over original patent	
1205 18	2205 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$ )

\*or number previously paid, if greater. For Reissue, see above

## FEE CALCULATION (continued)

### 3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1081 130	2081 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1082 50	2082 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1083 130	2083 65	Non-English specification	
1812 2,520	2812 1,260	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1804 920*	2804 460*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1809 1,840*	2809 920*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1261 110	2261 55	Extension for reply within first month	110.00
1262 420	2262 210	Extension for reply within second month	
1263 950	2263 475	Extension for reply within third month	
1264 1,430	2264 715	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1265 2,010	2265 1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401 330	2401 165	Notice of Appeal	
1402 330	2402 165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403 290	2403 145	Request for oral hearing	
1481 1,510	2481 755	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452 110	2452 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1463 1,330	2463 665	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501 1,330	2501 665	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502 480	2502 240	Design issue fee	
1503 640	2503 320	Plant issue fee	
1480 130	2480 65	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807 50	2807 25	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1808 180	2808 90	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021 40	28021 20	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809 770	2809 385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(e))	
1810 770	2810 385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801 770	2801 385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	770.00
1802 900	2802 450	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify):

\*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 880.00)

## SUBMITTED BY

Name (Print/Type) Douglas W. Miller  
Signature *Douglas W. Miller*  
Registration No. 36,608  
Telephone 713-780-7799  
Date November 3, 2003

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.27. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1480, Alexandria, VA 22313-1480.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-0199 and select option 2.

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : 09/932,910  
Applicant : Gregory T. Whiteker, et al.  
Filed : August 20, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 1755  
Examiner : James W. Pasterczyk

Confirmation No. 9327

Docket No. : 1998U020A.D1.US  
Customer No. : 25959  
Paper No. : 8  
Date : November 3, 2003

**OFFICIAL****RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

NOV 03 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Preliminary Amendment**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 14, 2003, and the Advisory Action mailed October 14, 2003, Applicants offer the following claim clarifications and remarks.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 12 of this paper.

1998U020A.D1.US.111.09.13.03

- 1 -

11/04/2003 AN8BT1 00000137 09932910 110.00 OP  
01 FC:1251